



GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Home Security Thursday, May 1

- 6:15 pm Refreshments**
- 6:45 pm Meeting (ends no later than 8:30 pm)**

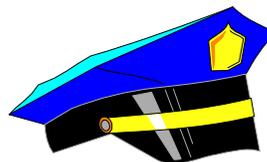
Learn about the recent increase in area home break-ins and robberies.

The DeKalb Police Department wants to hear what's on your mind. Listen to their plans and question police from both our neighborhood precincts.

You need to attend!

Hawthorne Elementary School Cafeteria

Intersection of Caladium Drive and Foster Ridge Road
Park in the school lot – Use the front entrance only



-- NBCA Board --

- Rodney Zell** 770-934-1824
president@northbriarcliff.org
- Larry Foster** 404-362-2192
vp@northbriarcliff.org
pdk@northbriarcliff.org
- Betty Phillips** 404-634-6498
treasurer@northbriarcliff.org
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- Laura Bulbin** 770-939-4636
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- Maribel Herrera** ... 678-592-9016
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- Beth Nathan** 404-315-7440
parks@northbriarcliff.org
webmaster@northbriarcliff.org
- Gary Powell** 404-633-0189
tabasco@northbriarcliff.org

-- Board Meetings --

1st Wednesdays, 7:30 pm.
Shallowford Presbyterian Church
Open to all NBCA members
Verify meeting details with president.



-- Off Board --

- Linda Dahlke**
database@northbriarcliff.org
- Billie Sherrod**
interchange@northbriarcliff.org
- June Buechner**
gardens@northbriarcliff.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I have lived in this area most of my life. The reasons are obvious. We have a great location, shopping, reasonably priced homes, and good schools, but one thing we do not have is parks and greenspace. When I learned of the Mary Scott Nature Preserve, I became excited. Finally, a place to take my children for nature walks and maybe even a playground. Five years later, I am still waiting. The only thing we have to show for this 2.1 million dollar 10+ acre property is a vacant lot. Yes, there has been some progress. Much of the trash has been cleared thanks to the countless hours of mostly volunteer labor, but the property does not really seem any closer to becoming useable than it did those long five years ago.

When I became President this year, I had one goal in mind - doing whatever this association could to get this project going. This greenspace could be the centerpiece of our neighborhood. If you want this project to turn into reality, then please help in any way you can. You can volunteer to help clean the lot during the many workdays. You can contact DeKalb elected officials and candidates seeking office and urge them to get the project going. You can collect signatures urging the completion of the greenspace. Please contact me or the NBCA's greenspace chair (Beth Nathan) to find out how you can help.

Rodney Zell, president@northbriarcliff.org

MARY SCOTT NATURE PRESERVE

At a meeting of the Citizens Advisory Board for the Parks & Recreation Department held 3/25/08, I was told that the Georgia DOT has ruled that MSNP will not require a deceleration lane. This is good news, in that it will greatly reduce the initial cost of developing MSNP. The Bid Package should be going out; that is the next hurdle. Development will then likely proceed in phases, as funding allows. Some of our upcoming work will be (a) checking that the county's priorities for phasing agree with the priorities set in the 2004 public meeting (the charrette) and (b) probably working to develop additional funding.

On Saturday, March 29, 2008, eleven volunteers signed in for a workday in Mary Scott Nature Preserve (MSNP): Nicole Thorpe, Nikki VanDerGrinten, Simon Dodge, Linda Dahlke, Bryan Bassett, John Morrow, Bob & Tricia Berrett, Doug McKittrick, Dot Rogers, Jill McCarey, Beth Nathan.

The workday began by walking the trail and talking about both existing native plants and existing exotic/invasive plants. We refreshed the pink/black flagging on the trail laid out a few years back under Connie Gray's guidance, selecting a route that minimizes impact on the roots of major trees, minimizes degradation of the terracing, and comes close to meeting ADA requirements. **Please DON'T encourage alternate short-cut paths or paths that will damage native vegetation.** Downed trees or limbs don't need to be cleared unless they present a hazard or a roadblock. They may look messy but they (a) provide places for wildlife to escape predators and (b) moist, rotting wood provides an ideal place for many native plants to germinate and protects them through tough times. Rotting wood also hosts insects that serve as food for wildlife. Nature preserves seek to preserve the whole cycle of life happening as it would without human interference, in ways we might or might not think lovely in our personal home landscapes. **Please DON'T "tidy up" the forest.**

Small numbers of spring wildflowers have reappeared naturally in MSNP since the county's work to remove invasive plants. Many spring wildflowers depend on late winter sunlight, shining through leafless winter trees typical of the Georgia Piedmont's forests. Non-native plants that retain their leaves year-round (e.g. English ivy, Japanese honeysuckle) are a BIG problem in our forests, shading out the native vegetation. Come to MSNP workdays and learn which things are desirable native plants (you may not recognize them) and which aren't. Look for an introduction to Georgia wildflowers on the northbriarcliff.org website under the section on MSNP.

Workday volunteers planted a great many native spring wildflowers (gathered by Georgia Native Plant Society rescuers) in an area where the county's English ivy control program had been fairly successful and leaf litter now provides natural mulch. Volunteers worked to reduce English ivy regrowth in this area. Plants were labeled with metal markers and blue plastic name markers (dangling or attached to a branch); older blue plastic markers throughout MSNP were freshened. These blue plastic markers identify native plants (either originally existing or intentionally planted). **Please DON'T destroy blue-tagged plants.** Several devil's walking sticks (*Aralia spinosa*) that were planted 12-18 months ago and clearly labeled with blue tags were found destroyed this year.

Much remains to be done. I am very much hoping that our current county resource person, Sue Pickens, will be leading us in this work or providing MSNP with a detailed plan for streambank restoration and maybe some ferns from the county greenhouse.

Beth Nathan, parks@northbriarcliff.org

COUNTY CODE SAYS ...

There is a weblink to DeKalb county code on the northbriarcliff.org website under Issues & Interests, which takes you to <http://www.municode.com/resources/gateway.asp?pid=10637&sid=10>



YARD SIGNS. Another sign that spring is in the air is yard signs. Specifically, signs in support of people seeking elected office. Whether you view these signs as yard debris or an exercise of free speech, DeKalb County has ordinances for placing such signs. Here are some highlights: Sec. 21-11. prohibits signs on public rights-of-way and signs placed on any tree, curb, utility pole, natural feature, or other structure. Sec. 21-12 mandates the owner must consent to a sign placed on his/her property. Sec. 21-13 restricts total sign area to no more than 24 square feet per lot. Signs may not have a height of greater than four above the grade level of the adjacent street or three feet above ground level, whichever is greater. Sec. 21-14 sets forth height and setback requirements. All signs shall be set back ten feet from the curb line. If the right-of-way is more than ten feet from the curb line, the sign shall be setback at least one foot from the right-of-way. If the distance between the right of way to the front of the principal structure is less than fifteen feet, signs shall be setback two-thirds of the distance between the curb line and the front of the principal structure.

SATELLITE DISHES. There have been complaints about the prominence of new installations of satellite dishes in the neighborhood. Some do violate county code. Please keep in mind that code requires that you get a special permit if your dish cannot be made to work in the side yard, back yard or off the roof.

VEHICLE PARKING. County Code requires that all vehicles be parked on prepared surfaces not on lawns or dirt. "prepared surface" means asphalt or other paving. Non-registered vehicles must be garaged. Commercial trucks may not be parked in residential neighborhoods. Trailers may not be parked on neighborhood streets. If you are in doubt, please call NBCA's Code "Ombudsman," Edward Frost (404-550-0398) or the DeKalb County Code Enforcement office. Complaints could take as long as four to six weeks to be acted upon.

ELECTIONS

The campaign for national office is certainly generating a great deal of excitement. But keep in mind that the primaries this summer (July 15) will most likely have much more affect on our local needs and issues. So, keep informed. We depend on each other to participate in our democratic process. Voter registration deadline is June 16.

Candidates qualifying for U.S. Congressional, State and DeKalb County races will meet with central DeKalb voters to discuss the issues and answer questions during a major **candidates fair** to be held

Thursday, June 5, 7-9 pm, Hellenic Community Center/Greek

Orthodox Church, 2500 Clairmont Road NE, Atlanta . All candidates that qualify to run in the July 15 primary and whose races will appear on ballots in central DeKalb will be invited to participate in the fair, which will be sponsored by 11 civic associations who are members of central DeKalb's Civic Association Network (CAN). It is estimated that may amount to around 100 candidates/campaigns.

Citizens will be able to meet the candidates, ask questions, hear the candidates positions on various issues, and provide information to the candidates about the concerns of the residents and communities they hope to represent. Residents can visit for 10 minutes or two hour, talk to all candidates or just those for whom they have a question.

Beth Nathan, Chair, Candidates Fair organizing committee



Hawthorne Kindergarten Roundup

In March, 2007, Hawthorne sponsored their annual Kindergarten Roundup, which is designed to introduce rising Kindergarten and First Grade students and their parents to "life in the day of an elementary school." The PTA canvasses local pre-schools and Coralwood Elementary (Hawthorne's sister school) to inform these prospective students and parents about this meeting. Held during the morning, parents and students are given a short presentation by the principal, Ms. Jennifer Pittman, PTA members and other school staff members. The good news about Hawthorne has certainly gotten out. This year over 50 prospective students were in attendance, more than twice as many as any Kindergarten Roundup had accommodated in previous years. Thank you to everyone living in the NBCA community for the help and assistance you provide our community school. Keep spreading the good word about Hawthorne.

Recycling with Hawthorne

More good news for Hawthorne Elementary School. You can now help Hawthorne make money by recycling more than just your newspapers. Spearheaded by our new fifth grade science teacher, Mr. Robert Clayton and with the able assistance of Chuck Cureton and CT Recycling, Hawthorne has established a partnership with Pratt Industries to recycle more than just newspapers. Now you can include magazines, junk mail, cardboard boxes, manila folders, phone books and a whole list of other paper-based items. That's right, you can recycle all of the paper and print items that go into the blue bins that DeKalb County will recycle for you. And Hawthorne will earn a contribution for all of the items collected, by weight. So plan on bringing those blue recycling bins and their contents by Hawthorne. The school earns money and you help save the planet. If you have any questions about what may or may not be recycled, please contact Mr. Robert H. Clayton at robert_h_clayton@fc.dekalb.k12.ga.us.

TRAFFIC CALMING



The North Briarcliff Civic Association exists to provide information and assistance to its residents. We understand that many issues in our community are viewed differently by different neighbors. Thus, our responses below are based on the Association's desire to provide general information when requested. With issues concerning individual neighborhoods or streets, we wait for consensus to be reached among the various parties. We hope the data shared below will provide an impetus for a mutually respectful discussion of ideas among the involved community members. If residents would like to hold a public meeting or discussion about this or any other issue, we respectfully request that the Association's Board be invited to attend. The Board currently has no official opinion about this subject.

Here are information sources concerning "traffic calming" in residential DeKalb County neighborhoods:

(1) Contact DeKalb Police, Tactical Enforcement, 404-294-2278, and ask for a sign that displays the speed each car is going as it passes the sign and flashes at the ones who are speeding. The sign usually stays in place for a few days, then gets moved to another part of the county. There is a positive effect, although it is usually transitory. DeKalb Police have a limited number of such signs and it sometimes takes awhile to get one installed.

(2) Long term speed control (Traffic Calming) involves much the same process as getting an infill overlay district, including holding public meetings and circulating petitions that must be signed by a significant percentage of those effected and then approved by the DeKalb Board of Commissioners. The county then installs whichever speed control device the area selects (in 2003 there were four types: speed tables, center islands, splitter islands and side striping). Local residents are charged an annual fee to maintain the particular type of traffic calming device (this used to be \$25/year/house). A February 2008 search of the DeKalb County website found the following at <http://www.co.dekalb.ga.us/publicwrks/contact.htm>: "Call DeKalb Transportation (770 492-5206) with questions about traffic planning and engineering including street lights, intersection design and construction, the traffic calming program and more..."

NBCA e-COMMUNICATIONS

Our website, northbriarcliff.org, is about to receive a major facelift. Make this website your first stop when you're looking for information pertinent to the NBCA area, e.g. how to contact elected officials, upcoming and past events and projects and current issues, back issues of the newsletter, quick links to DeKalb County code, current watering restrictions, current traffic & weather, and much, much, more. If you've got an idea for useful additions to the website, please submit it to webmaster@northbriarcliff.org.

E-mails to NBCA board members and project managers can be sent to <role>@northbriarcliff.org where [<role>](mailto:<role>@northbriarcliff.org) is one of the following: president, vp, treasurer, secretary, zoning, pdk, schools, editor, nwatch, parks, webmaster, tabasco, database, interchange or gardens. **PLEASE send Neighborhood Watch incident reports to nwatch@northbriarcliff.org**. Send newsletter submissions to editor@northbriarcliff.org

If you haven't yet signed up for the **General News e-mail list** or the **Neighborhood Watch e-mail list**, please do so at <http://www.northbriarcliff.org/Comm/listjoin.htm> Recent General News email announced gardens that would be open to neighbors on April 19. If you're not a subscriber, you may have missed that. If you don't have e-mail, ask a neighbor who does if they'll share info with you.

SHALLOWFORD NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER

TABASCO (Transform and Beautify Along Shallowford Corridor) is expanding its working group to include commercial stakeholders in the Shallowford @ I-85 area, as we work toward submitting an expected application for an LCI (Liveable Centers Initiative) grant to the Atlanta Regional Commission. More citizens are welcome to join this working group also. For more information and meeting notices (usually the 2nd Thursday evening), see http://groups.yahoo.com/group/DECA_TABASCO/

TABASCO was this year's sponsor of the April 19th Shallowford Road CleanUp.

HOE AND GROW ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

It's Spring clean-up/Clean-Out Time! Start checking your attics & basement for the Annual Hoe and Grow Garage Sale. Proceeds are used in our neighborhood (south of Shallowford) to maintain and beautify entrances to the neighborhood, support a homeless shelter and provide mailbox decorations for the holiday season.

Please contribute to this worthy cause by donating items to be sold. Items may include housewares, knick-knacks, tools, toys, linens, books, jewelry, small appliances, sporting/exercise equipment, clothing, furniture, plants, etc.

Items may be delivered to 2396 Sherbrooke Drive beginning Friday, April 25 through Friday, May 2. If occupants are not at home, please leave items on driveway.

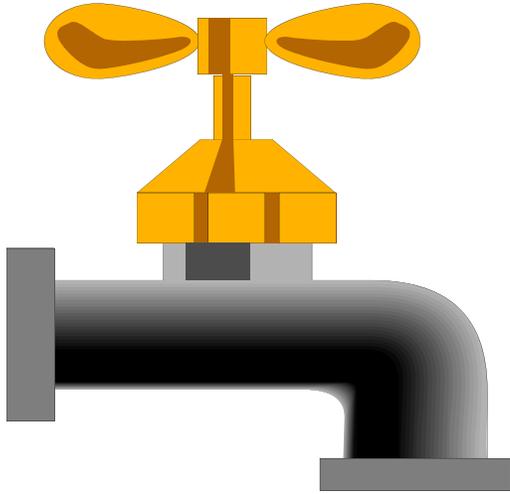
If you have items to donate but need them picked up, please call: Chris Triplett; 404-822-3804.

Come to the Garage Sale on **Saturday, May 3!** You will be helping your neighborhood and may find just what you've been looking for!

article provided by the Hoe and Grow Garden Club



WATER CONSERVATION



DeKalb County's water restrictions have been somewhat relaxed but remain at extreme drought levels. The following notice was circulated by the office of Commissioner Jeff Rader:

Revised Restrictions On Water Use (3/28/08)

Swimming Pools: Effective April 1, 2008, existing and new public and private indoor and outdoor swimming pools will be permitted to open and be topped off as necessary for maintenance.

Existing Landscape: Effective immediately, each household, business, institution, or property owner will be allowed to use one garden hose, 25 minutes per day, during designated days to water plants only, existing lawns are not included:

- a. The hose must be hand held during watering and equipped with a standard spray nozzle that automatically turns off when you let go of it.
- b. Even-numbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays between the hours of midnight and 10 a.m.
- c. Odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays between the hours of midnight and 10 a.m.

Newly Installed Landscape: Effective April 1, 2008, newly installed landscaping, except aeration and over seeding, may be watered using an irrigation systems 3 days per week for 10 weeks following installation with the following requirements:

- a. By any person who has registered with the Outdoor Water Use Registration Program at <http://www.urbanagcouncil.com>.
- b. Even-numbered addresses may water on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Saturdays between the hours of midnight and 10 a.m.
- c. Odd-numbered addresses may water on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Sundays between the hours of midnight and 10 a.m.
- d. Only one new landscaping installation in 2008 will be allowed per property.

For any additional information on water usage or how you can reduce the amount of water used for pools and landscaping, please visit the Department of Watershed Management Web site at www.dekalbwatershed.com.

COYOTES OF EVERY STRIPE

Readers may have seen a local TV news story recently featuring a captured coyote (the animal was trapped in a cage and not harmed). Part of the story emphasized that coyotes come in a variety of shapes, stripes and colors. Many look like dogs, some more than others. We remind you to keep track of your small pets, do not leave your pet's food outdoors. Otherwise, you're inviting wild creatures to your home. The following web site will provide more information about coyotes.

<http://www.myfoxtlanta.com/myfox/pages/Home/Detail;jsessionid=B4A2ADF586DF74257AE84F7AB393F2D7?contentId=6137582&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=1.1.1&sflg=1>
<<http://www.myfoxtlanta.com/myfox/pages/Home/Detail;jsessionid=B4A2ADF586DF74257AE84F7AB393F2D7?contentId=6137582&version=2&locale=EN-US&layoutCode=TSTY&pageId=1.1.1&sflg=1>>

**If your mailing label doesn't indicate that you're a paid member , please join NOW !!
Your support for this newsletter and neighborhood projects makes a difference.**

Membership dues are currently being collected for calendar year 2008.

North Briarcliff Civic Association membership. Enclosed is my check for \$_____ covering 2008 annual dues for my household (\$25) plus a donation of \$_____.

I can help with *(please circle):*

Newsletter or Website Layout/Design

Newsletter labeling / mailing

Member recruitment/benefits Concern: _____

Join NBCA's e-mail lists at <http://www.northbriarcliff.org/Comm/listjoin.htm>

Currently available lists: Neighborhood Watch, General News

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: (day) _____ (evening) _____

E-Mail(s): _____

Membership in the North Briarcliff Civic Association, Inc. may include all residents and owners of property within the Hawthorne Elementary School district and such other residents on bordering streets as may request inclusion. Neither dues nor donations are tax deductible.

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE FOR ME LATELY?

To steal the title of an old Janet Jackson hit tune, this is a question to ask and answer on many levels. As a community resident, you might want to know what YOUR neighborhood association has done for YOU lately (or at least during the past year.) Here is just a partial list:

1. Met with our area's Commissioners Rader and Gannon to discuss issues of importance
2. Became the first civic association to become a recognized Neighborhood Watch based on our e-mail communication system, which provides timely and current information on crimes occurring in our community
3. Posted and maintained a website currently being updated for even greater interactivity
4. Supported other area associations on issues of concern to us all, for example, closing Pure nightclub and compelling DeKalb County accountability at Peachtree DeKalb Airport
5. Wrote, edited and mailed a professional and topical newsletter quarterly
6. Continued to remind DeKalb County departments of their responsibility to complete the Mary Scott Nature Preserve, which will add to our neighborhood quality of life
7. Monitored neighborhood and area wide rezoning requests which will affect our community
8. Provided contact and project information to residents with concerns and questions
9. Provided neighborhood identity signage to area street signs
10. Organized a neighborhood party at Hawthorne Elementary School last May
11. Participated in Civic Association Network and other civic groups

BOTTOM LINE: The North Briarcliff Civic Association takes action to increase our quality of life, increase the value of our properties and affect the governance of our country. We urge you to take an active part in all of that. Become a member. Pay the reasonable dues. Attend the programs. Take part in a project. Get to know the members of the Board. Ours is a Neighborhood Association that clearly makes a difference. Take action. Be part of it!

PRESORTED
 STANDARD
 U.S. POSTAGE PAID
 ATLANTA, GA.
 PERMIT NO. 733

Spring 2008

If your mailing label is incorrect, please notify database@northbriarcliff.org or Betty Phillips at 404-634-6498. The "or current resident" designation on the second address line is necessary to insure proper delivery of all newsletters.

Signed articles in the newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the North Briarcliff Civic Association.

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Community Calendar



May 1	NBCA General Meeting on home security. [see page 1]
May 3	Hoe & Grow yard sale. [see page 5]
June 5	CAN Candidates Fair [see page 3]
OnGoing	If you would be willing to open your garden to your NBCA neighbors (not the general public), please contact June Buechner (gardens@northbriarcliff.org , 770-938-5550) and tell her when your garden is usually at its best.

If there's a neighborhood issue that has you concerned, e.g. traffic, sidewalks, litter, etc, please contact the NBCA board. Let's work together!